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**Arkansas Telehealth Oversight & Management**

University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences  
4301 West Markham, Room S5/22C  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205

Received & Inspected

FEB 18 2009

FCC Mail Room

thomasson@swbell.net  
501-554-6359

Regarding: Pilot Program (WC Docket No. 02-60)  
Arkansas - University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

**January 30, 2009**

Ms. Antoinette Stevens  
Telecommunications Access Policy Division  
Wireline Competition Bureau  
445 12th Street SW - Room 5B-521  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: FCC Rural Health Pilot – Arkansas – Fourth Quarter 2008


Dear Ms. Stevens,

Attached is the quarterly report for activities related to the Rural Healthcare Pilot Program, WC Docket 02-60 following the format found in Appendix D of the Rural Health Care Pilot Program Selection Order.

At this point in time we are in a planning phase and have made no program related expenditures. We expect to release our first Request for Proposal (RFP) within the next calendar quarter and maintain close contact with the Universal Services Company.

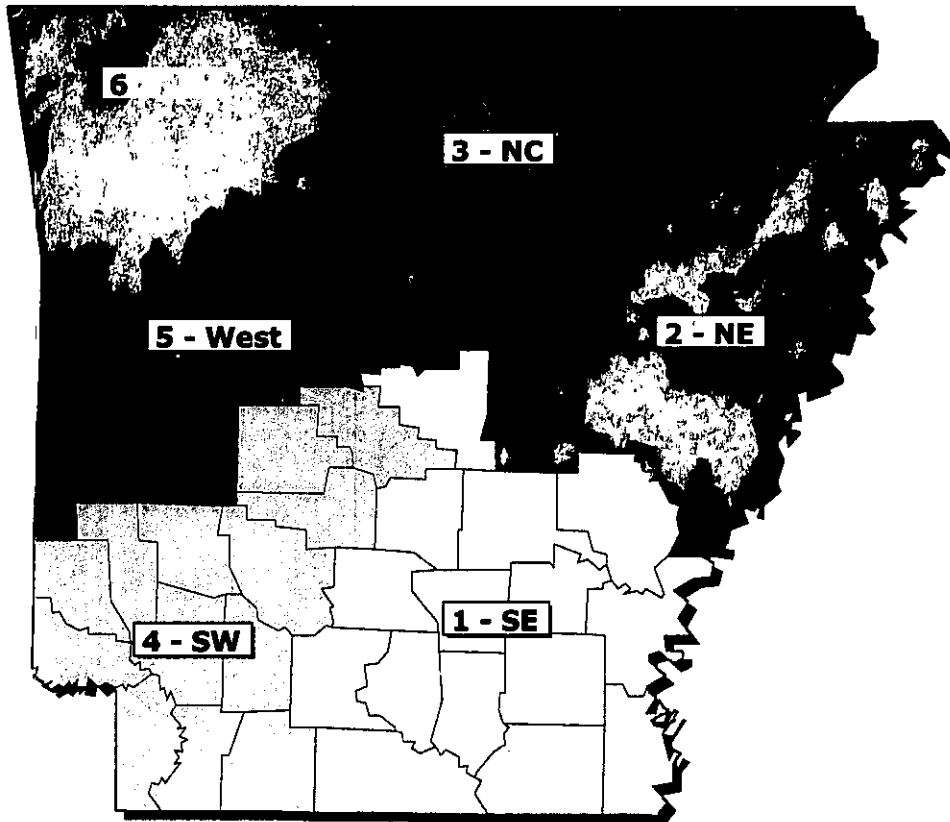
If you would like any information in addition to this report, please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely yours,



Bruce Thomasson  
ATOM Project Coordinator  
Arkansas Telehealth Oversight & Management

**FCC RURAL HEALTH PILOT PROGRAM**  
**ARKANSAS TELEHEALTH OVERSIGHT & MANAGEMENT**



**QUARTERLY REPORT**

OCTOBER 2008 - DECEMBER 2008

# FCC Rural Health Care Pilot Program

In response to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Rural Health Care Pilot Program, major information technology and healthcare service organizations allied within the State of Arkansas to create the framework for a fully-connected and efficiently-managed statewide telehealth system named the Arkansas Telehealth Network.

This partnership is managed by a Board of Directors, led by the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) in alliance with Baptist Health (BH), the Arkansas Hospital Association (AHA), and the Department of Health (ADH). As the primary stakeholders in the proposed statewide telehealth initiative, these organizations in concert with Arkansas' public and private non-profit healthcare organizations have amassed the collective expertise to launch the proposed ATOM effort to create a comprehensive and inclusive telehealth solution for the entire state with an emphasis on the rural Arkansas Delta. Cooperatively, ATOM selected UAMS to be the legal entity through which this project would be proposed. Leveraging the leadership of all major health care facilities in the state, ATOM will achieve its mission to optimize telehealth services in Arkansas through statewide direction and partnership.

**This is a report for the fourth calendar quarter of 2008. Updates to previous reports are shown in brown type.**

## **1. Project Contact and Coordination**

Project Coordinator: Suzanne E. Leslie  
(proposed) Agency Procurement Official  
UAMS Director of Contract Services  
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences  
4301 West Markham, Mailslot 762  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205  
phone: 501-686-6134 / fax 501-686-8628  
LeslieSuzanne@uams.edu

Project Contact: Bruce Thomasson  
501-554-6359 (cell)  
[thomasson@swbell.net](mailto:thomasson@swbell.net)  
workdays: Tuesday & Wednesday

Responsible Organization: University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS)  
4301 West Markham, Room S5/22C  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205  
501-526-7678 (phone) / 501-526-7652 (fax)

In Arkansas, the FCC Rural Health Care Pilot is coordinated through a consortium of public and private-non-profit health and information technology organizations called Arkansas Telehealth Oversight and Management (ATOM). Efforts are guided through a Board of Directors, an Advisory Committee and sub-committees. The project is coordinated by Bruce Thomasson, a part-time employee of UAMS. On days in which Mr. Thomasson is not employed, the project is covered by Tracie Hill (501-526-7678) in the Business Office of the UAMS Center for Distance Health.

The ATOM Board of Directors meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month. The ATOM Advisory Committee meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month. Sub-committees meet as necessary. Current sub-committees include: Network Design, Communications, Project Management & Finance, and Applications & Outcomes.

Workflow documents, board and committee minutes, slide presentations, calendars, and telehealth news items are maintained on the ATOM website: [www.arktelehealth.org](http://www.arktelehealth.org).

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## **2. Identify all health care facilities included in the network.**

The current list of proposed sites begins on the following page and contains:

- Provider Type:
  - Clinics = Includes Community Health Centers of Arkansas Clinics (HRSA-supported Federally Qualified Health Centers) and other private non-profit health clinics.
  - Hospitals = Acute care hospitals with Emergency Departments.
  - Mental Health Facilities = A non-profit community program certified by the Division of Behavioral Health Services as a community mental health center.
  - Medical Education = Post-secondary medical education programs
  - Therapy Center = Off-site Medicare-approved provider-based physical therapy department of a hospital.
- Site Name
- Site Street Address = Street address of the site
- Site City Name = City where the site is located
- Site Zip = Zip code for the site location

Memoranda of Understanding and Letters of Agency have been returned for 235 potential sites. The following list of potential sites is sorted by Provider Type.

Site Name	Site Street Address	Site City	Site Zip
<b>Clinics</b>			
AHEC - Fort Smith	612 S. 12th	Fort Smith	72901
AHEC - Northeast	223 East Jackson	Jonesboro	72401
AHEC Northwest	2907 East Joyce Blvd.	Fayetteville	72703
AHEC- Pine Bluff	4010 Mulberry	Pine Bluff	71603
AHEC- South Arkansas	460 West Oak	El Dorado	71730
AHEC- Southwest	300 East 6th	Texarkana	71854
Ahrens Clinic	414 West Old Main Street	Yellville	72687
Anderson Medical Clinic	1310 North Center Street	Lonoke	72086
Ash Flat Clinic	1714a Ash Flat Drive	Ash Flat	72513
Ashley Health Services (Ashley Co Medical Cntr)	313 Alabama Street	Crossett	71635
Ashley Health Services (Ashley Co Medical Cntr)	1003 Fred LaGrone Drive	Crossett	71635
Augusta Clinic	623 North 9th	Augusta	72006
Baptist Health Family Clinic -Cabot	205 Westport Drive	Cabot	72023
Baptist Health Family Clinic- England	221 NE 2nd Street	England	72046
Baptist Health Family Clinic -Malvern	1002 Schneider, Suite 10	Malvern	72104
Baptist Health Family Clinic -Maumelle	1701 Club Manor Road,	Maumelle	72113
Baptist Health Family Clinic -Perryville	313 W. Main Street	Perryville	72126
Baptist Health Dewitt Family Medical Clinic	1641 South Whitehead	DeWitt	72042
Baptist Health Clarendon Medical Clinic	198 S. Main	Clarendon	72029
Baptist Health Hazen Family Medical Clinic	151 S. Livermore	Hazen	72064
Baptist Health Stuttgrat Regional Medical Clinic	1609 N. Medical Drive	Stuttgart	72160
Baptist Health Brinkley Medical Clinic	110 N. New York Street	Brinkley	72021
Baptist Health Greers Ferry Clinic	8544 Edgemond Road	Greers Ferry	72067
Batesville Clinic	1800 Myers Street	Batesville	72501
Baxter Regional Medical Center Ash Flat Clinic	970 Ash Flat Drive	Ash Flat	72012
Beebe Family Clinic	47 Hwy 64 West	Beebe	72012
Carfagno Family Practice Clinic	1900 Club Manor Drive,	Maumelle	72113
CHCA-Amity Community Health Center	329 North Hill	Amity	71921
CHCA-Bearden Health Center	150 School Street	Bearden	71720
CHCA-Boston Mountain Rural Health Center, Inc.	465 Medical Center Park	Clinton	72031
CHCA-Boston Mountain Rural Health Center, Inc.	HC31, Box 310	Deer	72628
CHCA-Boston Mountain Rural Health Center, Inc.	110 Village Lane	Fairfield Bay	72088
CHCA-Boston Mountain Rural Health Center, Inc.	934 North Gaskill Street	Huntsville	72740
CHCA-Boston Mountain Rural Health Center, Inc.	2263 Hwy 65 North	Marshall	72650
CHCA-Cabun Rural Health Services, Inc.	402 South Lee	Hampton	71744
CHCA-Community Clinic Rogers Medical	1114 Poplar Place	Rogers	72756
CHCA-Community Clinic Springdale Medical	614 East Emma Ave., Su	Springdale	72764
CHCA-Corning Area Healthcare, Inc.	1300 Creason Road	Corning	72422
CHCA-Corning Area Healthcare, Inc. - Pocahontas	141 Betty Drive	Pocahontas	71455
CHCA-Corning Area Healthcare, Inc. -Walnut Ridge	3219 N. Hwy 67B,	Walnut Ridge	72476
CHCA-East Arkansas Family Health Center, Inc - Lepanto	102 West Broad	Lepanto	72354
CHCA-East Arkansas Family Health Center, Inc - West Memphis	215 East Bond Ave.	West Memphis	72301
CHCA-Hope Migrant/Community Health Center	205 Smith Road, Suite D	Hope	71802
CHCA-Jefferson Comprehensive Care System -Alzheimer Clinic	309 South Edline	Alzheimer	72204
CHCA-Jefferson Comprehensive Care System -College Station C	4206 Frazier Pike	College Station	72053
CHCA-Jefferson Comprehensive Care System -Pine Bluff Clinic	1101 Tennessee Street	Pine Bluff	71601
CHCA-Jefferson Comprehensive Care System -Redfield Clinic	113 West River Road	Redfield	72132

CHCA-Jefferson Comprehensive Care System -Rison Clinic	505 Sycamore Street	Rison	71655
CHCA-Lee County Cooperative Clinic	530 West Atkins Blvd.	Marianna	72360
CHCA-Lee County Cooperative Clinic - Hughes Satellite Clinic	503 South Broadway	Hughes	72348
CHCA-Lee County Cooperative Clinic - Lakeview Satellite Clinic	14264 Hwy 44	Wabash	72389
CHCA-Lee County Cooperative Clinic - Madison Satellite Clinic	302 Martin Luther King	Madison	72359
CHCA-Lewisville Family Practice Center	1117 Chestnut	Lewisville	71845
CHCA-Mainline Health Systems, Inc. - Dermott Medical Clinic	300 S. School Street	Dermott	71638
CHCA-Mainline Health Systems, Inc. - Eudora Medical Clinic	579 E. Beouff	Eudora	71640
CHCA-Mainline Health Systems, Inc. - Wilmot Medical Clinic	203 McComb	Wilmot	71767
CHCA-Mainline Health Systems, Inc.- Portland Medical Clinic	233 North Main	Portland	71663
CHCA-Mid-Delta Health Systems, Inc.	401 Midland Street	Clarendon	72029
CHCA-River Valley Primary Care Services	9755 West State Hwy 22	Ratcliff	72951
CHCA-St. Francis House NWA, Inc.	614 Emma Ave., Suite 3	Springdale	72764
CHCA-Strong Clinic	253 South Concord	Strong	71765
Clinton Clinic	1303 Hwy 65 South, Ste	Clinton	72031
Community Medical Center Clinic of Calico Rock	103 Grasse Street	Calico Rock	72519
Community Medical Center Clinic of Horseshoe Bend	805 Third Street	Horseshoe Bend	72512
Community Medical Center Clinic of Melbourne	203 Tate Spring Road	Melbourne	72556
Crittenden - Mid-South Multi-specialty Clinic	228 Tyler Street	West Memphis	72301
Crittenden - Delta Center on Aging	304 S. Rhodes Street	West Memphis	72301
Crittenden - The Children's Clinic	228 Tyler Street	West Memphis	72301
Crittenden- Mid-South Pediatrics	2921 Hwy 77	Marion	72364
Ferguson Rural Health Clinic	1641 South Whitehead D	DeWitt	72042
Greenbrier Family Medicine Clinic	110 North Broadview	Greenbrier	72058
Heber Springs Clinic	1716 W. Searcy	Heber Springs	72543
Hospital Home Health	200 Tyler Street	West Memphis	72301
Hoxie Medical Clinic - Lawrence Health	505 SE Lindsey	Hoxie	72433
Lawrence Memorial Hospital - Family Medical Clinic	1309 W. Main	Walnut Ridge	72476
Mayflower Family Medicine Clinic	587 Hwy 365	Mayflower	72106
Melbourne Clinic	1109 E. Main	Melbourne	72556
Montgomery County Community Clinic	534 Luzerne Street	Mt. Ida	71957
Mountain View Clinic	211 Blanchard Ave	Mountain View	72560
Newport Clinic	1507 Pecan Street	Newport	72112
Northside Clinic	4900 Kelly Highway	Fort Smith	72904
Paulk Family Clinic	1110 West Vine	Sheridan	72150
Ouachita Valley Family Clinic	353 Cash Road	Camden	71701
Reddy Medical Clinic	2526 Hwy 65 South	Clinton	72031
Riverside Rrual Health Clinic	105 Nathan Street	Marked Tree	72365
Rivery Valley Primary Care Clinic	9755 West State Hwy 22	Ratcliff	72951
Scott County Medical Clinic	1331 West 6th Street	Waldron	72958
Searcy Clinic	3218 E. Moore	Searcy	72143
St. Vincent Family Clinic/Chenal	1811 Rahling Road, Suite	Little Rock	72223
SVHC - Family Clinic - Jacksonville	1110 West Main Street	Little Rock	72205
SVHC - Family Clinic/University	4202 S. University	Little Rock	72204
SVHC - Health Clinic East	2500 E. 6th Street	Little Rock	72202
SVHC - Little Rock Internal Medicine Clinic	1100 N. University, S-I	Little Rock	72207
SVHC - Rodney Parham	10000 Rodney Parham F	Little Rock	72227
SVHC - Wildwood Medical Clinic	2215 Wildwood Ave, Suit	Sherwood	72120
Twin Cities Medical Clinic	103 Huntington Avenue	Mansfield	72944
W.A.T.C.H. Clinic	1201 S. Mena Street	Mena	71953
White County Medical Center - West Clinic	2505 West Beebe-Capps	Searcy	72143
WRMC - Cave City Medical Clinic	301 South Main Street	Cave City	72521
WRMC - Drasco Medical Clinic	68 Greens Ferry Road	Drasco	72530

WRMC - Melbourne Medical Clinic	110 Main Street	Melbourne	72556
WRMC - Newark Medical Clinic	501 Vine Street	Newark	72562
WRMC - Newport Medical Clinic	2200 Macolm Avenue	Newport	72112
WRMC - North Complex	195 Hospital Drive	Cherokee Village	72525
WRMC - Pleasant Plains Medical Clinic	6200 Batesville Boulevard	Pleasant Plains	72568
WRMC - Stone County Primary Care Clinic	2106 East Main Street	Mountain View	72560
WRMC - Strawberry Medical Clinic	58 East River Drive	Strawberry	72469

## Hospitals

Arkansas Children's Hospital - BURN	800 Marshall	Little Rock	72202
Arkansas Methodist Medical Center	900 West Kingshighway	Paragould	72450
Ashley County Medical Center	1015 Unity Road	Crossett	71635
Baptist Health Exended Care Hospital	9601 Interstate 630, Exit	Little Rock	72205
Baptist Health Medical Center	9601 I630 Exit 7	Little Rock	72205
Baptist Health Medical Center - Arkadelphia	3050 Twin Rivers Drive	Arkadelphia	71923
Baptist Health Medical Center - Heber Springs	1800 Bypass Road	Heber Springs	72543
Baptist Health Medical Center - North Little Rock	3333 Springhill Drive	North Little Rock	72117
Baxter Regional Medical Center	624 Hospital Drive	Mountain Home	72653
Bradley County Medical Center	404 South Bradley Street	Warren	71671
Booneville Community Hospital	880 West Main	Booneville	72927
Chicot Memorial Hospital	2729 South Hwy 65 & 82	Lake Village	71653
Community Medical Center of Izard	103 Grasse Street	Calico Rock	72519
Conway Regional Health System	2302 College Avenue	Conway	72034
Crittenden Regional Hospital	200 Tyler Street	West Memphis	72301
CrossRidge Community Hospital	310 S. Falls Blvd.	Wynne	72396
Dallas County Medical Center	201 North Clifton Street	Fordyce	71742
De Queen Medical Center	1306 West Collin Raye D	DeQueen	71832
DeWitt Hospital and Nursing Home	1641 South Whitehead D	DeWitt	72042
Drew Memorial Hospital	778 Scoggin Drive	Monticello	71655
Five Rivers Medical Center	2801 Medical Center Driv	Pocahontas	72455
Forrest City Medical Center	1601 New Castles Rd	Forrest City	72335
Fulton County Hospital	679 North Main Street	Salem	72576
Great River Medical Center	1520 North Division Stre	Blytheville	72316
Harris Hospital	1205 McClain Street	Newport	72112
Howard Memorial Hospital	800 Leslie Street	Nashville	71852
Jefferson Regional Medical Center (JPMC)	1600 W. 4th Ave	Pine Bluff	71603
John Ed Chambers Memorial Hospital Inc	P.O. Box 639	Danville	72833
Johnson Regional Medical Center	1100 East Poplar Street	Clarksville	72830
Lawrence Memorial Hospital	1309 W. Main Street	Walnut Ridge	72476
Little River Memorial Hospital	451 West Locke Street	Ashdown	71822
Magnolia City Hospital	101 Hospital Drive	Magnolia	71753
McGehee-Desha County Hospital	900 South Third Street	McGehee	71654
MCSA, L.L.C. dba Medical Center of South Arkansas	700 West Grove	El Dorado	71731
Medical Park Hospital	2001 South Main Street	Hope	71801
Mena Regional Health System	311 North Morrow	Mena	71953
Mercy Hospital Scott County	1341 West 6th Street	Waldron	72958
Mercy Hospital Turner Memorial	801 West River Street	Ozark	72949
National Healthcare of Newport dba Harris Hospital	1205 McLain Street	Newport	72112
North Arkansas Regional Medical Center	620 N. Main	Harrison	72601
North Logan Mercy Hospital	500 East Academy Stree	Paris	72855
North Metro Medical Center	1400 Braden Street	Jacksonville	72076
Northeast Arkansas Baptist Memorial Healthcare	3924 Stadium Blvd.	Jonesboro	72401
Northwest Medical Center - Bentonville	3000 Medical Center Par	Bentonville	72712
Northwest Medical Center - Willow Creek Women's Hospital	4301 Greathouse Spring	Johnson	72741

Northwest Medical Center - Springdale	609 W. Maple Ave	Springdale	72764
Ouachita County Medical Center	638 California Avenue	Camden	71711
Ozark Health Medical Center	P.O. Box 206	Clinton	72031
Piggott Community Hospital	1206 Gordon Duckworth	Piggott	72454
Pike County Memorial Hospital	315 East 13th Street	Murfreesboro	71958
River Valley Medical Center	200 North Third Street	Dardanelle	72834
River Valley Medical Center	200 North Third Street	Dardanelle	72834
Saint Mary's Regional Medical Center	1808 W. Main Street	Russeville	72801
Saline Memorial Hospital	1 Medical Park Drive	Benton	72015
Siloam Springs Memorial Hospital	205 E. Jefferson Street	Siloam Springs	72761
SMC Regional Medical Center	611 West Lee Avenue	Osceola	72315
South Arkansas Regional Health Center	715 North College	El Dorado	71730
St. Anthony's Medical Center	Four Hospital Drive	Morrilton	72110
St. Bernard's Medical Center	225 E. Jackson Avenue	Jonesboro	72401
St. Edward Mercy Medical Center	7301 Rogers Avenue	Fort Smith	72903
St. John's Hospital - Berryville	214 Carter	Berryville	72616
St. Joseph Mercy Health Center	300 Werner Street	Hot Springs	71903
St. Mary's - Russellville	1808 West Main Street	Russellville	72801
St. Michael's	2600 St. Michael Drive	Texarkana	75503
St. Vincent Infirmary	2 St. Vincent Circle	Little Rock	72205
Stone County Medical Center	2106 East Main Street	Mountain View	72560
Stuttgart Regional Medical Center	1703 North Buekle Road	Stuttgart	71260
The Surgical Hospital of Jonesboro	909 Enterprise Drive	Jonesboro	72401
UAMS Medical Center	4301 West Markham	Little Rock	72205
Washington Regional	3215 N. North Hills Blvd	Fayetteville	72703
White County Medical Center	2505 West Beebe-Capps	Searcy	72143
White County Medical Center - South Campus	1200 South Main	Searcy	72143
White County Surgery Center	710 Marion	Searcy	72143
White River Medical Center	1710 Harrison Street	Batesville	72501
<b>Mental Health Facilities</b>			
Community Counseling Services, Inc.-Arkadelphia	201 N. 26th Street	Arkadelphia	71923
Community Counseling Services, Inc.-Hot Springs	125 Dons Way	Hot Springs	71913
Community Counseling Services, Inc.-Malvern	1615 Martin Luther King I	Malvern	72104
Community Counseling Services, Inc.-West Grand	505 W. Grand Avenue	Hot Springs	71901
Counseling Associates, Inc.	110 Skyline Drive	Russellville	72801
Counseling Clinic Inc.	307 E. Servier Street	Benton	72015
CSEA Brinkley Clinic	490 Broadmoor Drive	Brinkley	72021
CSEA Forrest City Clinic	4451 North Washington	Forrest City	72335
CSEA Helena Clinic	801 Newman Drive	Helena	72342
CSEA Marianna Clinic	444 Atkins Street	Marianna	72360
CSEA West Memphis Clinic	905 North 7th Street	West Memphis	72301
CSEA Wynne Clinic	661 Addison Drive	Wynne	72396
Delta Counseling Associates	790 Roberts Drive	Monticello	71655
Little Rock Community Mental Health Center	4400 Shuffield Drive	Little Rock	72205
Little Rock Community Mental Health Center - Fullerton Center	4601 West 7th Street	Little Rock	72295
Little Rock Community Mental Health Center - Pinnacle House	1020 W. Daisy Gatson B	Little Rock	72202
Little Rock Community Mental Health Center - Up & Up	3601 West Roosevelt	Little Rock	72206
Mid-South Health Systems Blytheville	209 South Lockard	Blytheville	72315
Mid-South Health Systems Corning	602 David Street	Corning	72422
Mid-South Health Systems Jonesboro	2707 Browns Lane	Jonesboro	72401
Mid-South Health Systems Paragould	28 Southpoint Drive	Paragould	72450
Mid-South Health Systems Pocahontas	2560 Old County Road	Pocahontas	72455
Mid-South Health Systems Walnut Ridge	102 South Larkspur	Walnut Ridge	72476
Ozark Counseling Services - Harrison	724 North Spring	Harrison	72601
Ozark Counseling Services - Jasper	504 West Court, Room 1	Jasper	72641



Ozark Counseling Services - Marshall	319 Highway 14 South,	Yellville	72687
Ozark Counseling Services - Mountain Home	200 East Main	Marshall	72650
Ozark Counseling Services - Mountain Home	# 8 Medical Plaza	Mountain Home	72654
Ozark Guidance - Bentonville	2508 S.E. 20th Street	Bentonville	72712
Ozark Guidance - Berryville	208 Hwy 62 West	Berryville	72616
Ozark Guidance - Fayetteville	60 West Sunbridge Drive	Fayetteville	72703
Ozark Guidance - Huntsville	701 Phillips, Suite 1	Huntsville	72740
Ozark Guidance - Siloam Springs	710 Holly Street	Siloam Springs	72761
Ozark Guidance - Springdale	2466 S. 48th Street	Springdale	72762
Ozark Guidance - Springdale	2400 S. 48th Street	Springdale	72762
Professional Counseling Associates	4354 Stockton Drive	North Little Rock	72117
Rivendell Behavioral Health	100 Rivendell Drive	Benton	72019
Southeast Arkansas Behavioral Healthcare System	2500 Rike Drive	Pine Bluff	71603
Southwest Arkansas Counseling & Mental Health (Jefferson Hc	3005 East 39th Street	Texarkana	71854
Southwest Arkansas Counseling & Mental Health Center, Inc.	2904 Arkansas Blvd	Texarkana	71854
Western Arkansas Counseling & Guidance - Booneville (174)	174 North Welsh	Booneville	72927
Western Arkansas Counseling & Guidance - Booneville (880)	880 West Main	Booneville	72927
Western Arkansas Counseling & Guidance - Fort Smith (3111)	3111 South 70th Street	Fort Smith	72903
Western Arkansas Counseling & Guidance - Fort Smith (3113)	3113 South 70th Street	Fort Smith	72903
Western Arkansas Counseling & Guidance - Mena	415 South 6th Street	Paris	72855
Western Arkansas Counseling & Guidance - Ozark	303 North 18th Street	Ozark	72949
Western Arkansas Counseling & Guidance - Van Buren (2705)	2705 Oak Lane	Van Buren	72956
Western Arkansas Counseling & Guidance - Van Buren (2707)	2707 Oak Lane	Van Buren	72956
Western Arkansas Counseling & Guidance - Waldron	307 South Cherry	Mena	71953

### Medical Education

AHEC - Delta	1393 Highway 242 South	Helena	72342
AHEC - North Central	2005 White Drive	Batesville	72503
Baptist Health Schools Little Rock	11900 Colonel Glenn Road	Little Rock	72210

### Therapy Centers

Baptist Health Occupational Health Center	6800 Lindsey Road	Little Rock	72206
Baptist Health Therapy Center - Bryant	4411 Hwy 5 North	Bryant	72012
Baptist Health Therapy Center - Cabot	North First Street	Cabot	72023
Baptist Health Therapy Center - Conway	815 Hogan Lane, Suite 5	Conway	72032
Baptist Health Therapy Center - Fairfield Bay	381 Dave Creek Parkway	Fairfield Bay	72088
Baptist Health Therapy Center - Heber Springs	2101 Hwy 25 North	Heber Springs	72543
Baptist Health Therapy Center - Jacksonville	117 Gregory Place	Jacksonville	72076
Baptist Health Therapy Center - Lonoke	1306 North Cente	Lonoke	72086
Baptist Health Therapy Center - Searcy	720 Marion, Suite 102	Searcy	72143
Baptist Health Therapy Center - Sheridan	1409 South Rock, Suite D	Sheridan	72150
Baptist Health Therapy Center - Sherwood	2001 E. Kiehl #7	Sherwood	72120
Baptist Health Therapy Center - Stuttgart	2118 S. Buerkle	Stuttgart	72160

### 3. Network Narrative

As of December 31, 2008 we have not yet connected any health care providers to the ATOM network. Our membership drive in which we collected Memoranda of Understanding and Letters of Agency was completed on December 23, though we are still awaiting some documentation from member organizations. We have collected MOUs and LOAs for 235 sites.

Once we can develop a sustainability plan to mutual satisfaction, we are ready to progress with a network design request for proposal

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#### **4. List of Connected Health Care Providers**

As of December 31, 2008 we have not yet connected any health care providers to the ATOM network.

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#### **5. Identify the following non-recurring and recurring costs.**

As of December 31, 2008 we have not yet incurred allowable costs for the project.

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#### **6. Describe how costs have been apportioned and the sources of the funds to pay them:**

Costs have not yet been apportioned. We have not yet applied for nor accrued any project expenses. We are in the process of firming up amounts and sources of matching funds, estimates and sources for expenses that will not be allowed under the pilot program, and plans for sustainability.

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#### **7. Identify any technical or non-technical requirements or procedures necessary for ineligible entities to connect to the participant's network.**

Unknown at this time. We have not completed an analysis of site eligibility nor have we completed an analysis of technical or non-technical requirements for their connection. Potential sites have been informed of eligibility criteria and those criteria have been added to the Letters of Agency. Sites are responsible for certifying their eligibility when they apply for inclusion to the project.

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#### **8. Provide an update on the project management plan**

##### **A. Current Management Structure of ATOM**

###### **Board of Directors**

- Arkansas Department of Health; Mary Leath, Director of Administration
- Baptist Health; David House, Vice President and CIO

- DeWitt Hospital; Darren Caldwell, CEO
- Magnolia City Hospital; Terry Amstutz, CEO
- University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences; Dr. Curtis Lowery, Director OBGYN and Director, Center for Distance Health

**Staff**

- Bruce Thomasson, ATOM Project Coordinator, UAMS
- Roy Kitchen, Business Administrator, UAMS
- Tracie Hill, Grants and Contracts Manager, UAMS

**B. Detailed Project Plan and Scope:**

We plan for the network design to be completed in regional stages as depicted by the map on the cover of this report. A staged design will allow network installation to begin at the earliest possible time while other areas of the state are still in a design phase.

Task	Target Start Date	Target Completion Date
Prepare Network Design RFP text	Complete	
ATOM Membership Drive	10/9/08	12/23/08
Proposed site list complete	4/1/08	1/30/09
Distribute MOU & LOA	10/9/08	11/7/08
Network Design RFP review	9/12/08	2/10/09
USAC Review of Network Design RFP	9/23/08	2/10/08
Network Design RFP bid "on street"	3/1/08	4/14/09
Network Design bid review and award	4/14/09	5/14/09
Network Design with phased completion*	6/1/09	6/1/10
*Region 1-SE Network Design	6/1/09	8/1/09
Region 1-SE Installation bid on street	8/1/09	9/1/09
Region 1-SE Installation bid review/award	9/1/09	9/30/09
Region 1-SE Installation	10/1/09	

Task	Target Start Date	Target Completion Date
*Region 2-NE Network Design	8/1/09	10/1/09
Region 2-NE Installation bid on street	10/1/09	11/1/09
Region 2-NE bid review/award	11/1/09	11/30/09
Region 2-NE Installation	12/1/09	
*Region 3-NC Network Design	10/1/09	12/1/09
Region 3-NC Installation bid on street	12/1/09	12/30/09
Region 3-NC bid review/award	1/1/10	1/30/10
Region 3-NC Installation	2/1/10	
*Region 4-SW Network Design	12/1/09	2/1/10
Region 4-SW Installation bid on street	2/1/10	2/28/10
Region 4-SW bid review/award	3/1/10	3/30/10
Region 4-SW Installation	4/1/10	
*Region 5-WEST Network Design	2/1/10	4/1/10
Region 5-WEST Installation bid on street	4/1/10	4/30/10
Region 5-WEST bid review/award	5/1/10	5/30/10
Region 5-WEST Installation	6/1/10	
*Region 6-NW Network Design	4/1/10	6/1/10
Region 6-NW Installation bid on street	6/1/10	6/30/10
Region 6-NW bid review/award	7/1/10	7/30/10
Region 6-NW Installation	8/1/10	

## **9. Provide detail on whether network is or will become self sustaining**

*The following is a reprint of the Arkansas Sustainability Plan, version 1.0.*

Arkansas Telehealth Oversight and Management (ATOM) is a strategic partnership of health and information technology organizations dedicated to establishing and managing a single, unified statewide telehealth network linking all medical resources in the State. Telehealth services are essential infrastructure costs to provide urban health resources for rural residents. It is necessary to reduce the increased morbidity and mortality of rural areas and it is necessary to attract industry and business opportunities to rural Arkansas. The availability of healthcare is no less important to a community than the availability of roads, bridges, water and electricity.

Initial development of the Arkansas Telehealth Network has been provided through a funding commitment from the Federal Communications Commission. The FCC Universal Service Program has committed \$4.2 million and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences has committed \$746,000 in matching funds. These contributions will be used to design, construct and pay operational costs through the first two years of the project. Beginning in July 2011, however, local contributions will be required to sustain the network.

### **BACKGROUND**

#### **BUSINESS DESCRIPTION**

##### **Business Model/Philosophy**

Working collaboratively, groups of hospitals are positioned to implement and operate advanced telehealth systems more effectively and for a lower cost than hospitals or programs can individually. ATOM can achieve significant savings by managing the network on a cost recovery basis; negotiating volume discounts; sharing a central data center, servers, and other hardware; and sharing staff and training expenses.

Ultimately, ATOM's business philosophy is to provide small community hospitals and clinics with essential, life-saving health resources from large and medium sized medical centers. This is achieved by creating mechanisms which distribute medical expertise across the entire state population, reduce unnecessary patient transportation, promote process improvement, and improved utilization of available resources.

##### **Strengths:**

- ATOM represents 200+ hospitals, clinics, therapy centers, medical education facilities and mental health centers. As such, this alliance is one of the most broad based health partnerships in the State.

- ATOM partners currently manage multiple networks which include individual hospitals, multiple hospital chains, all acute care hospitals and all state-funded clinics in Arkansas.
- ATOM partners have a strong voice in state healthcare policy individually and collectively.

### **Day-to-Day Operational Relationships**

ATOM is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of three permanent members and two members appointed by the Arkansas Hospital Association:

- Arkansas Department of Health
- Baptist Health
- University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
- De Witt Hospital (*appointed*)
- Magnolia City Hospital (*appointed*)

A twelve member Advisory Committee and a part-time project manager guides day-to-day operations:

- Arkansas Center for Health Information
- Arkansas Department of Health
- Arkansas Department of Human Services
- Arkansas Department of Information Systems
- Arkansas Foundation for Medical Care
- Arkansas Hospital Association
- Baptist Health
- Arkansas Research Education & Optical Network
- Community Health Centers of Arkansas
- Mental Health Council of Arkansas
- St. Vincent Health System
- University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

### **Other Relationships:**

ATOM has also established relationships with other organizations working to increase the availability of broadband throughout Arkansas. Several organizations created by state statute in 2007 have indicated an interest in our efforts to link medical services:

**The Arkansas Broadband Advisory Council** develops policies to expand broadband deployment in the State and makes recommendations to the Governor and Legislature to support broadband implementation. Established by state legislation in 2007, the Council has twice requested presentations on the ATOM project and have been very supportive of our plans.

**Connect Arkansas** is a private non-profit corporation created by the same act that created the Broadband Advisory Council. Connect Arkansas has been funded to map, plan and influence public attitude toward the need for broadband in Arkansas.

**Arkansas Cyberinfrastructure Steering Committee and Advisory Committee** membership includes Dr. Curtis Lowery, ATOM Board Chairman.

## PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

The Arkansas Telehealth Network will provide the infrastructure to support a wide variety of clinical and management services. Existing telehealth services are denoted with an asterisk (\*).

Telehealth Services	
Obstetrics* & Neonatology*	The ANGELS program at UAMS provides a 24-hour support for physicians to consult with maternal-fetal medicine specialists when requested regarding patient management issues. PEDS Place provides weekly interactive continuing education in pediatrics.
Remote Patient Evaluation	Allows specialists at large medical centers to provide expert guidance to rural physicians and hospitals; serious cases are moved to larger medical centers; less serious cases are managed in their home communities.
Remote Patient Monitoring*	Baptist Health in Little Rock remotely monitors intensive care patients in four hospitals around the state and plans to expand the program.
Prison Telemedicine*	Reduces prison medical expenses by providing on-site patient evaluation.
Electronic Health Records*	Provides clinicians with secure access to patient records over the web. At this point in time, some portions of medical records are shared electronically.
Patient education*	Provides ability to customize the latest patient education documents from a central source.
Sonography*	Fetal ultra-sonograms are moved across existing networks as part of real-time store-and-forward information systems.

Tele-Neurology*	Neurologists from Fort Smith and Little Rock are able to provide 24x7 acute stroke intervention in nine rural emergency departments.
Tele-Pharmacy*	Remotely dispensing pharmaceuticals reduces costs without risking safety. The White River Medical Center in Batesville remotely manages medication in the Stone County Medical Center in Mountain View.
Tele-Psychiatry / Mental Health*	Telehealth Services are currently being used to match patients with mental health specialists for remote counseling sessions.
Tele-Radiology*	The remote interpretation of x-rays, CT scans and MRIs is commonly used throughout Arkansas, providing rapid interpretation of diagnostic images.
<b>Facility Management Services</b>	
New service provision models	Allows development of specialized remote medical applications which improve care in rural areas, reduce costs and make better use of centralized medical resources.
Quality Improvement	Automates quality management and reporting requirements for utilization, risk management, infection control and accreditation reviews.
Facilitates required health reporting from physicians and medical centers to the Department of Health	Automates disease surveillance systems, providing more timely recognition of disease outbreaks.
Emergency Preparedness	Allows simultaneous connections to medical infrastructure in times of emergency, coordinating statewide medical response.
Physician Practice Management	Supports patient account management and insurance processing for physician practices and clinics



## ORGANIZATION, MANAGEMENT AND PERSONNEL

The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, the lead agency for the FCC pilot project in Arkansas, currently provides telehealth network management to 50 sites across several networks that will be assimilated into ATOM. These existing personnel, under the supervision of Chief Technology Officer Rhonda Jorden, will form the core of ATOM network management as we extend to 200+ sites in the rural health care pilot.

The Network Management Center is currently staffed with six (6) FTEs who manage video conferences and handle hot-line support for video conferences in session. As the build-out extends to 200+ sites and those sites find funding for end-user equipment, we expect to add three (3) additional FTEs. This projection is based upon several assumptions:

- a) The Network Management Center would handle scheduling, monitoring and trouble-shooting of video conferences (24x7x365) and support multi-site conferencing (bridges, gatekeepers, scheduling software, etc.).
- b) The Rural Health Care pilot project does not include any end-user equipment. Obviously, if sites are not able to find the funding for equipment and applications, fewer network management staff would be required.
- c) It is projected that support for end-user video conference equipment and routers at the remote location will be handled through 3rd party contract. Plans for this should be included in all discussions regarding network deployment.

## MARKETING PLAN

ATOM represents 200+ hospitals, clinics and mental health centers in a state which is largely medically under-served. As such, the alliance represents the bulk of medical institutions in the state and should use the influence of its member organizations to promote the development and support of statewide telehealth services.

ATOM members should seek to inform state and community policy leaders about the goals of ATOM and the benefits which telehealth will bring to small rural communities. Recent polls show 82% of Americans in favor of public works projects to stimulate the economy and 77% support initiatives to increase access to high quality health care<sup>1</sup>. 61% agree that it is the government's responsibility to make sure that *"everyone in the United States has adequate health care"*. Providing health care coverage *"for all Americans is favored 2-1, even if it means raising taxes"*.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Time / Rockefeller Foundation Poll, 17 July 2008:

[http://www.rockfound.org/about\\_us/press\\_releases/2008/071708rf\\_time\\_poll.shtml](http://www.rockfound.org/about_us/press_releases/2008/071708rf_time_poll.shtml)

<sup>2</sup> Quinnipiac University poll, 22 February 2007: <http://www.quinnipiac.edu/x1295.xml?ReleaseID=1020>

Arkansas Telehealth Oversight & Management (ATOM)

October - December 2008

ATOM members should also inform economic development teams of the benefits telehealth brings to business, industry and real estate proposals. Extending urban health resources into rural areas improves care and reduces overall costs.

## **FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY**

Costs estimates, the number of participating sites and the rate at which sites will be added to the network are best guess estimates. As the regional network designs are completed, we will have a better idea of costs and timeframes.

### **Network Design**

- March 2009 - October 2010
- Total sites: 280
- Estimated design cost per site: \$1,250
- Estimated designs completed per month: 10

### **Installation**

- August 2009 - January 2011
- Total sites: 200
- Estimated installation cost per site: \$1,440
- Estimated installs completed per month: 11

### **Recurring Line Costs**

- September 2009 - forward
- Total sites: 200
- Estimated monthly line charge per site: \$1280
- Estimated sites brought on line per month: 11

### **Initial Funding Commitments: JANUARY 2009 - OCTOBER 2011**

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Universal Service Administration Company (USAC) has pledged \$4,217,688 for pre-approved design, installation and recurring line charges. The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) has pledged 15% cash match(\$744,298) to be paid toward each line item, prior to submitting bills to USAC. We currently estimate that these committed funds will support the program until October 2011 at which time additional continuing funds will be necessary.

### **Continued Funding Possibilities: July 2011 Forward**

Telehealth applications are not yet capable of supporting their own costs. Increasingly, the services of medical providers on both ends of a telehealth video-consult/intervention are reimbursed, but the costs of maintaining the infrastructure linking those providers is not. Providing continued support for the telehealth infrastructure - the network developed with this rural health pilot funding - will require a mix of funds from member contributions and government support.

	Design	Install	Line Cost	Total	15%	Additional Expense
March-09	\$12,500			\$12,500	\$1,875	
April-09	\$12,500			\$12,500	\$1,875	
May-09	\$12,500			\$12,500	\$1,875	
June-09	\$12,500			\$12,500	\$1,875	
July-09	\$12,500			\$12,500	\$1,875	
August-09	\$12,500	\$16,000		\$28,500	\$4,275	
September-09	\$12,500	\$16,000	14,080	42,580	\$6,387	
October-09	\$12,500	\$16,000	28,160	56,660	\$8,499	
November-09	\$12,500	\$16,000	42,240	70,740	\$10,611	
December-09	\$12,500	\$16,000	56,320	84,820	\$12,723	
January-10	\$12,500	\$16,000	70,400	98,900	\$14,835	
February-10	\$12,500	\$16,000	84,480	112,980	\$16,947	
March-10	\$12,500	\$16,000	98,560	127,060	\$19,059	
April-10	\$12,500	\$16,000	112,640	141,140	\$21,171	
May-10	\$12,500	\$16,000	126,720	155,220	\$23,283	
June-10	\$12,500	\$16,000	140,800	169,300	\$25,395	
July-10	\$12,500	\$16,000	154,880	183,380	\$27,507	
August-10	\$12,500	\$16,000	168,960	197,460	\$29,619	
September-10	\$12,500	\$16,000	183,040	211,540	\$31,731	
October-10	\$12,500	\$16,000	197,120	225,620	\$33,843	
November-10		\$16,000	211,200	227,200	\$34,080	
December-10		\$16,000	225,280	241,280	\$36,192	
January-11		\$16,000	239,360	255,360	\$38,304	
February-11			253,440	253,440	\$38,016	
March-11			253,440	253,440	\$38,016	
April-11			253,440	253,440	\$38,016	
May-11			253,440	253,440	\$38,016	
June-11			253,440	253,440	\$38,016	
July-11			253,440	253,440	\$38,016	
August-11			253,440	253,440	\$38,016	
September-11			253,440	253,440	\$38,016	
October-11			253,440	253,440	\$38,016	\$11,214
Total	\$250,000	\$288,000	\$4,435,200	4,961,986	\$744,298	
FCC Award	\$4,217,688					
Match	\$744,298					
Total	\$4,961,986					

Consolidation and expansion of the coordinated state telehealth network has been made possible by a \$4.2 million funding commitment from the Federal Communications Commission Rural Health Pilot Program. The federal program reimburses for network design, installation and recurring lines costs over a 3-5 year term. Network design will begin in early 2009. Installation will be complete and the network will be fully operational prior to the fall of 2011 when currently allocated funds are expected to be depleted.

**Factors:**

Cost projections were based on installing one T1 line to each of 200 ATOM members. Installation would begin in July 2009 and 11 members would be added each month until the all of the projected members were installed and functional. At that rate, with no other funds available, all funds would be dispensed by October 2011.

		Local Cash Match	Network Management & Maintenance	End User Equipment Grants	Recurring Line Charges	Total
<b>FY 2008-09</b>	\$42,500	\$7,500	\$237,220	\$0		<b>\$287,220</b>
<b>FY 2009-10</b>	\$935,340	\$165,060	\$501,811	\$0		<b>\$1,602,211</b>
<b>FY 2010-11</b>	\$2,387,684	\$421,356	\$748,155	\$0		<b>\$3,557,195</b>
<b>FY 2011-12</b>	\$852,164	\$152,061	\$857,641	\$425,000	\$2,037,715	<b>\$4,324,581</b>
<b>FY 2012-13</b>	\$0	\$0	\$912,384	\$425,000	\$3,041,280	<b>\$4,378,664</b>
<b>FY 2013-14</b>	\$0	\$0	\$948,879	\$425,000	\$3,041,280	<b>\$4,415,159</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,217,688</b>	<b>\$745,977</b>	<b>\$4,206,090</b>	<b>\$1,275,000</b>	<b>\$8,120,275</b>	<b>\$18,565,030</b>

**Potential Sources of Funding:** We expect funds from the FCC Rural Healthcare Pilot Program to be fully expended on or before October 1, 2011. From the time those funds are expended, the program will require approximately \$4.5 million to continue operation. This includes approximately \$3 million in recurring line charges, \$900,000 for network maintenance and management, and \$425,000 for end user telemedicine equipment grants for small rural clinics and hospitals. Continued funding can be raised from several sources:

**Membership Fees:** It is reasonable to assume that health care facilities will be able to fund a portion of these network expenses directly. Several caveats exist, however:

- Although insurance and other third party payers are increasingly accepting of remote provision of services, they only reimburse for the medical services, not the recurring line costs, network management or end-user equipment. Without a funding stream for this "middle-ware", it will be difficult.

cult for medical providers to absorb these costs. It should be assumed that membership fees will prohibit the continued participation of clinics and hospitals with small operating margins.

- Publicly-funded rural clinics such as Community Health Centers of Arkansas have a very small technology budget. These clinics often serve populations which have no other access to medical care, and the clinics have little funding for broadband connections. Membership fees should not be considered as a viable alternative to support the continued participation of the Community Health Centers
- ATOM is a consortium which focuses on providing a 24x7 managed telehealth network. Its business management functions are currently donated by the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Department of OB-GYN. ATOM is not staffed to process monthly telecommunications billing. It is recommended that any on-going member contributions should be handled as annual membership fees rather than monthly bills in order to control administrative expenses.

**State Government Contributions:** In order for statewide telehealth services to remain operational, a state government contribution of some amount will be necessary by July 2011. Healthcare must be seen as an investment for the state and a key element of economic development. Until and unless we are able to provide quality health care to rural Arkansas, industry will not settle there and citizens will not continue to live there. Healthcare is an essential component of economic infrastructure. State government support of telehealth will provide an equal under-girding of support to the health of all Arkansans, regardless of where they live.

Telemedicine can bring the expertise of Arkansas' medical centers to every county in the State; add productive years of life to every citizen; and achieve a better utilization of resources. A statewide trauma system has been designated as a priority within the current legislative session and we have presented the argument that ATOM is *the* connecting infrastructure piece linking all hospitals.

In order to improve healthcare, reduce urban/rural health disparities, reduce morbidity/mortality and reduce costs, the State of Arkansas should provide on-going support for the operational costs of the Arkansas Telehealth Network.

**FCC "Regular" Health Care Program:** The Rural Health Care Program of the Universal Service Fund makes discounts available to eligible rural health care providers for telecommunication services and monthly Internet service charges. The program is intended to ensure that rural health care providers pay no more for telecommunications in the provision of health care services than their urban counterparts. In Arkansas, the fund can be used to alleviate the differences between urban and rural rates.

Amounts recouped for healthcare in Arkansas are minimal and there is a widespread impression that the regular program is not worth the effort. In 2006, \$196,430 was reimbursed across eligible health care organizations. By 2007 that amount dropped to \$123,689. This appears to be a one year decline of 37%, though the reimbursement process can be lengthy and some additional funds may yet be reimbursed.

**Other Federal Funding:** A rudimentary budget and project plan have been developed for submission to Obama administration in anticipation of health information technology and rural bandwidth funding. Additionally we are continuing to review new grant announcements for applicable funding opportunities.

#### **REFINEMENT OF THIS DOCUMENT**

ATOM is envisioned to be a managed statewide network involving hundreds of health organizations whose needs have not yet been analyzed. At this stage, we do not presume to know recommended bandwidths, methods of data transmission, vendors nor the costs of installation and operation. This document is based upon best guess estimates at the time of publication. Once we have a network design document we will have a better idea of the on-going costs of the network. This document will be updated on a continuing basis as additional information becomes known.

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#### **10. Provide detail on how the supported network has advanced telemedicine benefits:**

Telemedicine is seen as playing an important part in the future of healthcare delivery in Arkansas. Already, Arkansas has some of the best developed networks in the country and perhaps the only managed network currently linking all acute care hospitals in a state. Since funding of the FCC Pilot Project, ATOM members have provided information and testimony to the Arkansas Joint Committee on Advanced Communications and Information Technology. The pilot project is seen as providing a foundation on which to expand other state efforts. Some recent telemedicine developments in Arkansas which will be able to immediately use the new network include:

- A stroke intervention program for rural hospitals,
- Centralized eICU bed monitoring, and
- Hospital-based tele-pharmacy program.

The ATOM Advisory Committee is preparing a catalog of telemedicine services available in Arkansas.

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**11. Provide detail on how the supported network has complied with HHS health IT initiatives:**

The ATOM network will link to all publicly funded health clinics, all publicly funded mental health clinics and all hospitals; either through direct connection or through an intermediary. The Board, the Advisory Committee and all sub-committees includes representation by the state health agency responsible for compliance with HHS IT initiatives (Arkansas Department of Health). The office of the Arkansas Surgeon General, the Arkansas Center for Health Improvement, is represented on the Advisory Committee. Additionally, the agency responsible for state medicaid administration is represented on the Advisory Committee. We also closely interact with the Arkansas Chapter of the Health Information Management Systems Society and provided multiple presentations for their annual meeting.

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**12. Explain how the selected participants coordinated in the use of their health care networks with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and, in particular, with its Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in instances of national, regional, or local public health emergencies**

We have not yet connected any sites or consolidated existing networks within the proposed Arkansas Telehealth Network. However, two existing networks managed by the Arkansas Department of Health (Local Health Unit Network and the Hospital Bioterrorism Network) are routinely used for disaster preparedness and response. These networks have played a key role in the state response to Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav and Ike as patients are evacuated from hospitals and nursing homes in Louisiana and Texas. These networks will be connected to ATOM through the Arkansas Department of Health. ATOM members are currently conducting some telemedicine consults across the Department of Health networks.

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